



**4310-VH-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)**

**[Docket ID No. BSEE-2012-0008; OMB Control Number 1014-0009]**

**Information Collection Activities: Legacy Data Verification Process (LDVP);**

**Submitted for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Review; Comment**

**Request**

**ACTION:** 60-day Notice.

**SUMMARY:** To comply with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), BSEE is inviting comments on a collection of information that we will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval. The information collection request (ICR) concerns a renewal to the paperwork requirements in a Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) discussed below.

**DATE:** You must submit comments by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by either of the following methods listed below.

- Electronically: go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the entry titled, Enter Keyword or ID, enter BSEE-2012-0008 then click search. Follow the instructions to submit public comments and view all related materials. We will post all comments.
- Email [cheryl.blundon@bsee.gov](mailto:cheryl.blundon@bsee.gov). Mail or hand-carry comments to the Department of the Interior; Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Regulations Development Branch; Attention: Cheryl Blundon; 381 Elden Street, MS-4024; Herndon,

Virginia 20170-4817. Please reference ICR 1014-0009 in your comment and include your name and return address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Cheryl Blundon, Regulations Development Branch at (703) 787-1607 to request additional information about this ICR.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Title:** Legacy Data Verification Process (LDVP) – NTL (formerly known as Historical Well Data Cleanup).

**OMB Control Number:** 1014-0009.

**Abstract:** The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.* and 43 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to prescribe rules and regulations necessary for the administration of the leasing provisions of the Act related to the mineral resources on the OCS. Such rules and regulations will apply to all operations conducted under a lease. Operations on the OCS must preserve, protect, and develop oil and natural gas resources in a manner that is consistent with the need to make such resources available to meet the Nation’s energy needs as rapidly as possible; to balance orderly energy resource development with protection of human, marine, and coastal environments; to ensure the public a fair and equitable return on the resources of the OCS; and to preserve and maintain free enterprise competition.

The OCSLA at 43 U.S.C. 1332(6) states that “operations in the [O]uter Continental Shelf should be conducted in a safe manner by well-trained personnel using technology, precautions, and techniques sufficient to prevent or minimize the likelihood of blowouts, loss of well control, fires, spillages, physical obstruction to other users of the waters or

subsoil and seabed, or other occurrences which may cause damage to the environment or to property, or endanger life or health.”

BSEE’s Legacy Data Verification Process (LDVP) requests operators to supply missing data or corrected data for wells drilled prior to January 2000 that do not have an assigned API number. This notice announces our intention to request a 3-year extension for this information collection.

The information we collect under this NTL, is missing data for wellbores that BSEE has not assigned API numbers and other well data discovered as missing while completing the well database cleanup. We are not able to manage and utilize data from drilling operations accurately without the information for the missing wells. We will use the information to identify other well data (e.g., logs, surveys, tests) missing from our records, geologically map existing BSEE data to the correct wellbore/location, and correctly exchange information with the operators and industry. Our geoscientists can use the information to evaluate resources for lease sales for fair market value. With respect to safety concerns, we believe that there may be anywhere from 1,500 to 4,500 unidentified completed and abandoned wellbores (bypasses and sidetracks), some of which may contain stuck drill pipe or other materials. In approving permits and other operations in an area, it is important for us to know what may be adjacent to or near the vicinity of the activity we are approving to minimize the risk of blowouts, loss of well control, and endangerment to life, health, and the environment. This is particularly important as, over the years, the number of wells drilled constantly increases, thereby increasing the risk to adjacent activities if operators are not aware of what might be in the area.

We will protect information respondents submit that is considered proprietary under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552), its implementing regulations (43 CFR part 2), and 30 CFR 250.197, *Data and information to be made available to the public or for limited inspection*. No items of a sensitive nature are collected. Responses are mandatory.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Description of Respondents:** Potential respondents comprise Federal OCS oil, gas, and sulphur lessees.

**Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:** The currently approved annual reporting burden for this collection is 11,250 hours for approximately 4,500 wells, based on:

(1) 0.5 hours to locate and copy a summary of drilling operations (e.g., scout tickets) for each well; and

(2) 2 hours to retrieve and analyze each well file and retrieve other missing data.

There are no recordkeeping requirements.

**Estimated Reporting and Recordkeeping Non-Hour Cost Burden:** We have identified no paperwork non-hour cost burdens for this collection.

**Public Disclosure Statement:** The PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) provides that an agency may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Until OMB approves a collection of information, you are not obligated to respond.

**Comments:** Before submitting an ICR to OMB, PRA section 3506(c)(2)(A) requires each agency “. . . to provide notice . . . and otherwise consult with members of the public

and affected agencies concerning each proposed collection of information . . .”.

Agencies must specifically solicit comments to: (a) evaluate whether the collection is necessary or useful; (b) evaluate the accuracy of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) enhance the quality, usefulness, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) minimize the burden on the respondents, including the use of technology.

Agencies must also estimate the non-hour paperwork cost burdens to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. Therefore, if you have other than hour burden costs to generate, maintain, and disclose this information, you should comment and provide your total capital and startup cost components or annual operation, maintenance, and purchase of service components. For further information on this burden, refer to 5 CFR 1320.3(b)(1) and (2), or contact the Bureau representative listed previously in this notice.

We will summarize written responses to this notice and address them in our submission for OMB approval. As a result of your comments, we will make any necessary adjustments to the burden in our submission to OMB.

**Public Comment Procedures:** Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made

publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

May 4, 2012  
Dated.

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Douglas W. Morris, Chief  
Office of Offshore Regulatory Programs.

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